

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 IO-11 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /081 W

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O P 301855Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 172

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

1KAMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0524

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, OVIP, ES

SUBJECT: OAS CHARTER REFORM --VISITS TO CAPITALS

1. SUMMARY: AMB MAILLIARD HELD DISCUSSIONS JAN 27-28 WITH SALVADORAN FONMIN AND OTHER FORNOFF OFFICIALS AND FOREIGN POLICY PLANNERS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON OAS CHARTER REFORM. WHILE SALVADORANS DID NOT PUT FORTH ANY PARTICULARLY NOVEL IDEAS OR IMAGINATIVE THINKING ON THE SUBJECT, THEY PROVED TO BE OPEN-MINDED AND SYMPATHETIC TO AMB. MAILLIARD'S PRESENTATION OF US POSITION. THE DISCUSSIONS HIGHLIGHTED A RATHER BROAD AREA OF COINCIDENCE OR CONVERGENCE BETWEEN OUR OWN AND SALVADORAN VIEWS ON THE DEFICIENCIES OF THE OAS, THE NEED FOR A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO REFORM (INCLUDING FIRST THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSENSUS ON THE APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR THE OAS AND THEN ARRIVING AT A NEGOTIATED AND SIMPLIFIED CHARTER TO FIT THAT ROLE) AND A STRATEGY TO ADVANCE THE PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON JANUARY 27, AMB. MAILLIARD MET JOINTLY WITH TWO MEMBERS

OF THE FOREIGN POLICY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (DR. RENE PADILLA AND COL. J. N. AGREDA) AND SIX KEY FONOFF OFFICIALS UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR. LUIS LOVO CASTELAR, FONOFF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN POLICY. AMB. MAILLIARD HAD HOPED TO STIMULATE THE SALVADORANS INTO A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON OAS CHARTER REFORM, BUT THE LATTER WERE RELATIVELY RETICENT, WHICH SUGGESTED EITHER THAT THEY HAD NOT YET PROGRESSED BEYOND THE PRELIMINARY STAGE OF THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER OR THAT IT WAS OF INSUFFICIENT NATIONAL INTEREST TO WARRANT SPECIAL EFFORT AT CONCEPTUAL ORIGINALITY. IN ANY EVENT, THEY DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY PRE-CONCEIVED VIEWS PREJUDICIAL TO OUR INTERESTS AND, ON THE CONTRARY, GAVE CONSIDERATE ATTENTION TO AMB. MAILLIARD'S PRESENTATION OF OUR POSITION ON CHARTER REFORM AND RESPONDED WITH SYMPATHETIC COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS OR QUESTIONS. WE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR RATIONALE FOR OPPOSING THE CONTROVERSIAL DRAFT PROVISION ON COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY APPEARED PARTICULARLY CONVINCING TO THEM. ALTOGETHER, IT WAS A USEFUL AND IMPRESSIVE SESSION FOR THEM TO BE BRIEFED ON OUR POSITION FIRST-HAND BY AN EXPERT, HIGH-LEVEL U.S. OFFICIAL.

3. ON JANUARY 28, AMB. MAILLIARD, ACCOMPANIED BY AMB. CAMPBELL, MET JOINTLY WITH FONMIN BORGONOVO AND UNDERSECRETARY CASTANEDA FOR A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL SUBJECTS INCLUDING OAS CHARTER REFORM. BOTH SALVADORAN OFFICIALS REVEALED THEMSELVES TO BE QUITE SYMPATHETIC TO OUR POSITION ON OAS REFORM. WHILE THE COMMENTS OF THE SALVADORANS APPEARED TO BE OF THE OFF-THE-CUFF VARIETY, SUGGESTING THAT THEY HAD NOT YET GIVEN THIS MATTER MORE THAN SUPERFICIAL THOUGHT, THEY CLEARLY PROFESSED OR INSINUATED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AND IN SOME CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WITH OUR POSITION.

4. THE DISCUSSION WITH BORGONOVO/CASTANEDA HIGHLIGHTED THE FOLLOWING MUTUALLY SHARED VIEWS: (A) THE OAS AS NOW CONSTITUTED AND FUNCTIONING IS IN MANY WAYS CONSIDERED UNSATISFACTORY AND SUFFERS FROM LOW PRESTIGE. (B) A REFORMED OAS COULD MUCH BETTER SERVE THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBERS AND PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS. (C) A HEMISPHERIC CONSENSUS IS LACKING ON WHAT SHOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR THE OAS AND SUCH A CONSENSUS NEEDS TO BE DEVELOPED PRIOR TO CHARTER REFORM. (D) CONFIDENTIAL

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CHARTER REFORM PROVISIONS SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS SUPPORT, AND SHOULD SERVE TO MAKE THE REFORMED CHARTER INTO AN INSTRUMENT IN ACCORD WITH THE AGREED CONSENSUS ON THE ROLE OF THE OAS. (E) THOSE PROVISIONS OF THE PRESENT CHARTER WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO THE CONSENSUS AND OF PROVEN VIABILITY SHOULD BE RETAINED; THOSE WHICH ARE IRRELEVANT (AND ANY OF THOSE DRAFT REFORM PROVISIONS NOW UNDER CON-

SIDERATION WHICH MAY ALSO BE IRRELEVANT) SHOULD BE ABANDONED.

(F) THE PROBLEMS OF FUTURE MINI-MEMBERS' NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED. (G) STRUCTURAL REFORM OF THE OAS IS ESSENTIAL, WITH THE PERMANENT COUNCIL AND BLOATED SECRETARIAT STAFF MOST IN NEED OF REMEDIAL ATTENTION. (H) THE BURGEONING OAS BUDGET NEEDS TO BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AND SCALED DOWN FOR A SLIMMER AND MORE EFFECTIVE OAS. I) OAS TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE SCALED DOWN TO PROVEN AREAS OF SPECIAL COMPETENCE AND SHOULD SUPPLEMENT, NOT DUPLICATE, EFFECTIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES.

5. BORGONOVO AND CASTANEDA ALSO CONCURRED IN OUR STRATEGY OF HAVING FRIENDLY AND SYMPATHETIC LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS CARRY THE BALL FOR MUTUALLY AGREED REFORM PROPOSALS AND PROCEDURES. THEY LOOKED FAVORABLY ON OUR SUGGESTION OF FONMINS LIEVANO AND FACIO FOR THAT TASK AND THOUGHT THEM EMINENTLY APPROPRIATE. THEY SUGGESTED THAT FACIO MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER FIRST REACHING A SUPPORTIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN CONSENSUS TO REINFORCE HIS HAND IN HIS NEGOTIATING POSITION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR AGREEMENT ON REFORM.

6. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO COUNT THE GOES ON OUR SIDE OF THE CHARTER REFORM STRUGGLE, PROVIDED IT IS ABLE TO SUPPORT US BY THE SAFE MEANS OF THE INSTRUMENTALITY OF CENTRAL AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. HOPEFULLY, FACIO CAN GENERATE THIS SOLIDARITY; AND HE SHOULD HAVE NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN GETTING THE GOES TO GO ALONG (JUDGING FROM THE VIEWS WE HEARD HERE).

CAMPBELL

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## Message Attributes

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